

Chess

by R. E. Fauber with Frank Garosi

What can you think of grandmaster Jim Tarjan? He has dropped out of chess to pursue a Ph.D in English literature. That is kind of like dropping out of one breadline to get in another. There are no jobs for chess professionals nor for people who enjoy the English language.

This syllogism is like a coin and, when you flip it over it has an important motto. Tarjan, a fine chess player, has the courage to educate himself. He will pursue more than a career — an education.

That used to be the rule rather than the exception among the world's great players. They may have become professionals, eking their livelihood out of chess, but they were supremely cultured men.

Emanuel Lasker held the world championship in chess for longer than any other human being. He also made a fundamental contribution to 20th century algebra and had reknown in his day as a philosopher and a playwright.

Aron Nimzovich had a flair for philosophy. Our game's law-giver Steinitz was a pretty fair mathematician. His chief challenger, Johannes Zukertort, spoke

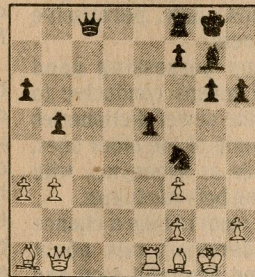
nine languages with great ease, was a physician and wrote eloquently on prison reform. (As a chess player he felt the need to write eloquently on anything.)

Tarjan, who resides in Berkeley, may be a happy harbinger of a return to the grandmaster of culture. The specialists are all right in their way, but it is nice to know there is someone of supreme talent in one field with whom one can also talk in other fields. Tarjan's decision is reclaiming chess for "culture," an intellectual interest, an intellectual value.

Somebody ought to take the quotes off the culture, and chess players are the kind with the independence of mind to do it. When you get used to thinking about anything in a disciplined sort of way, you ought to be able to transfer that habit of mind to other areas of thought. That is culture, and that is the kind of thinking which chess transmits to the receptive human intellect.

Tarjan broke his schooling for the Masson American Class Championships, and he tied for first. Obviously education does not hurt — as this game illustrates.

English Opening D. Root vs. J. Tarjan Tarjan BLACK



WHITE Root Black to move.

1. N-KB3, P-QB4; 2. P-QN3, P-Q3; 3. P-B4, P-K4; 4. N-B3, P-KN3.

(Oddly enough these kinds of quiet moves have to be played with a little precision. Already Black has no problems.)

5. P-K3, B-N2; 6. B-N2, QN-B3; 7. B-K2, KN-K2; 8. 0-0, 0-0; 9. R-QB1, R-QN1.

(Black shows a bit more understanding of the position. With the B on QN2. White is not ready to take the initiative on the files.)

10. P-QR3, P-QR3; 11. Q-B2, B-B4; 12. B-Q3, B-N5; 13. B-K2, P-R3; 14. N-Q5, P-QN4.

(Now it was time to swallow hard and play 15. NXNch.)

15. B-R1?, NXN; 16. PXN, N-K2; 17. P-Q4, BPXP; 18. PXP, R-B1; 19. Q-N1, NXP; 20. RXR, QXR; 21. PXP, NB5!; 22. R-K1, PXP; 23. B-B1, BXN; 24. PXN.

See diagram.

(Now a quiet move sets up the final attack.)

24. . . . Q-Q1!; 25. P-QR4, Q-N4ch; 26. K-R1, R-Q1; 27. Q-K4, R-Q4; 28. B-QN2, P-B4; 29. Q-K3, K-R2; 30. Q-R7, Q-R4.

(Now 31. B-N2, N-Q6 is decisive.)

31. BXKP, QXPch; 32. K-N1, Q-N5ch; 33. K-R1, RXB; 34. RXR, Q-B6ch; 35. K-N1, Q-N5ch; 36. K-R1, Q-Q8; 37. K-N1, N-R6ch; 38. K-N2, Q-N5ch; 39. K-R1, Q-N8 mate.